

# THE Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF DISCOVERY LIVING, INC. 

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A Night to  
*Shine...*

A *Night* to  
*Remember*



# STAR WARS NIGHT WITH THE ROUGH RIDERS



THE FORCE WAS STRONG WITH ATTENDEES AT A RECENT ROUGH RIDERS GAME HONORING SPECIAL OLYMPIANS.

*"99% of failures come from people who make excuses." -- George Washington*



The Discovery Living community salutes our brave men and women in blue and wishes to express our appreciation to the Cedar Rapids Police Department and K-9 unit (and Odin) for hosting a very informative evening with our crew. (And thank you for handcuffing Scott. He gets a little unruly, at times.)





# NIGHT *to Shine*

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

*Once again, the Tim Tebow Foundation and St. Mark's Lutheran Church crown dozens of kings and queens, and host another night of winter magic!*

Photo credit for many of the photos featured in this article, including the cover photo: Jennifer Rockwell



## **LIFE in the FAST LANE**

*A Night of Go-Karting with the Lansing Lads!*



# \$13.82 MILLION

to 542 charities



Thanks to each of you who supported the 2019 **John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity** fundraiser. Because of your support, Discovery Living was blessed to receive almost \$9,000 in donations from you, and another \$650 in matching funds from John Deere!

The 2019 campaign and our friends at **John Deere** generated a total of over 13.82 million dollars in donations that were distributed to 542 charities. We are honored to be a part of such a wonderful event and look forward to another great year in 2020!



## 2019 in Review

**\$13.82 MILLION RAISED**  
**542 CHARITIES PARTICIPATED**  
**19,978 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**  
**2,137 VOLUNTEERS**



Our good friends at **Hy-Vee** donated \$76 through the **Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program**. Thanks to the **Oakland Road** and **Johnson Avenue Hy-Vees** for their participation in this program.

Whether you bought a bag or helped spread the word, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank You!



Store Director David Wilken – Johnson Avenue and Monica Ravn, Member Advocate

Thanks to everyone who supported our **John and Nancy Morris** endowment match campaign! To date, we have raised \$28,500 in donations, and received another \$25,000 in matching funds from John and Nancy. Every gift is appreciated and our endowment funds, which are managed by the **Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation**, help ensure that **Discovery Living** will be here to support people with disabilities for many years to come. Earnings from our endowment are either re-invested or accessed to support our operations.

# The Morris Endowment Challenge

If you ever have questions regarding our endowment or any other matter, please contact our executive director, Bob Hebl at (319) 378-7470 or [bhebl@discoveryliving.org](mailto:bhebl@discoveryliving.org).

Please make endowment checks payable to:  
**Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation**  
 Indicate in the memo field:  
**Discovery Living Endowment**  
 Mail check directly to:  
**Discovery Living**  
 1015 Old Marion Road NE  
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

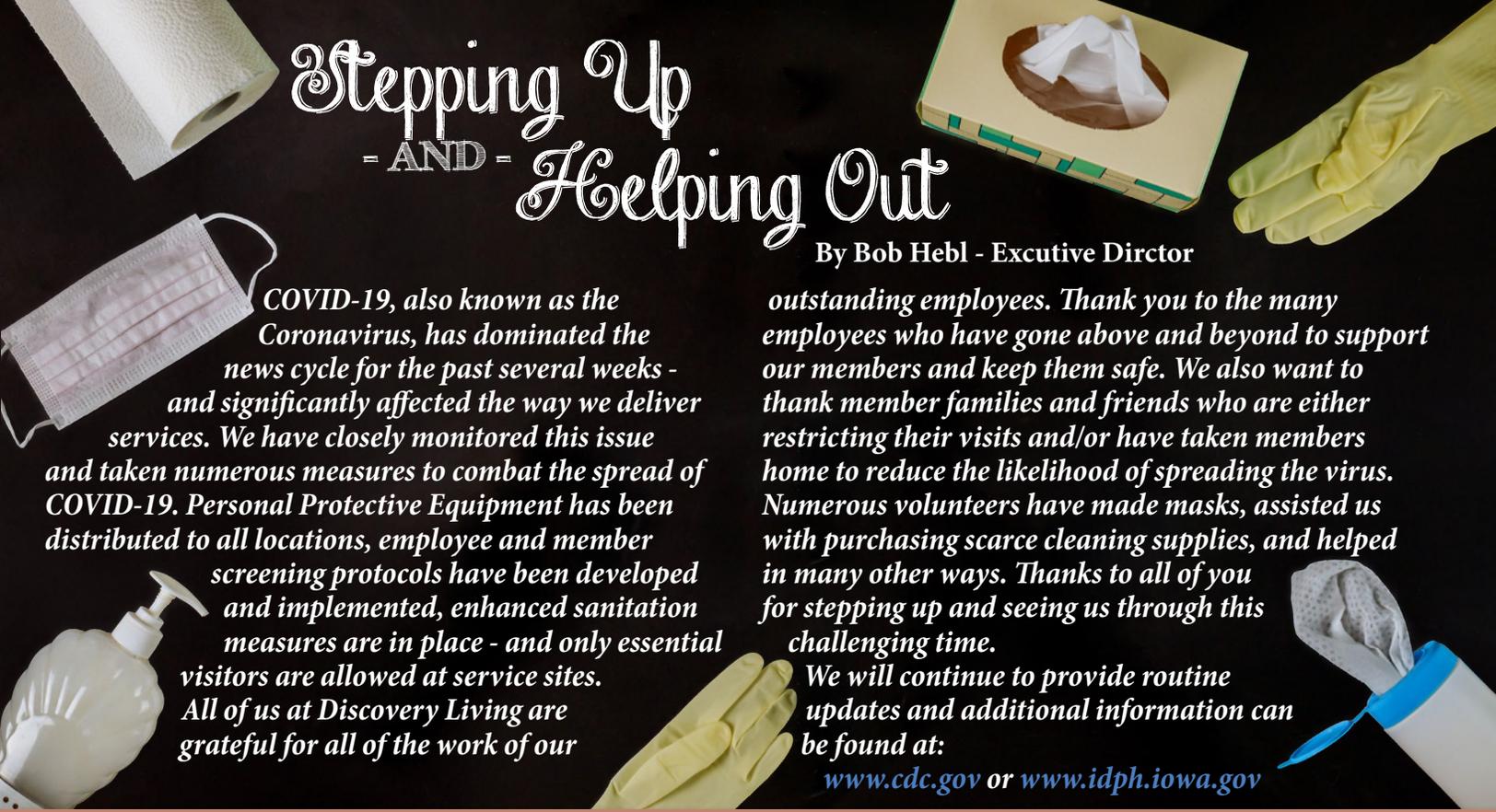
# Stepping Up = AND = Helping Out

By Bob Hebl - Executive Director

COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, has dominated the news cycle for the past several weeks - and significantly affected the way we deliver services. We have closely monitored this issue and taken numerous measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. Personal Protective Equipment has been distributed to all locations, employee and member screening protocols have been developed and implemented, enhanced sanitation measures are in place - and only essential visitors are allowed at service sites. All of us at Discovery Living are grateful for all of the work of our

outstanding employees. Thank you to the many employees who have gone above and beyond to support our members and keep them safe. We also want to thank member families and friends who are either restricting their visits and/or have taken members home to reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus. Numerous volunteers have made masks, assisted us with purchasing scarce cleaning supplies, and helped in many other ways. Thanks to all of you for stepping up and seeing us through this challenging time.

We will continue to provide routine updates and additional information can be found at:  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.idph.iowa.gov](http://www.idph.iowa.gov)

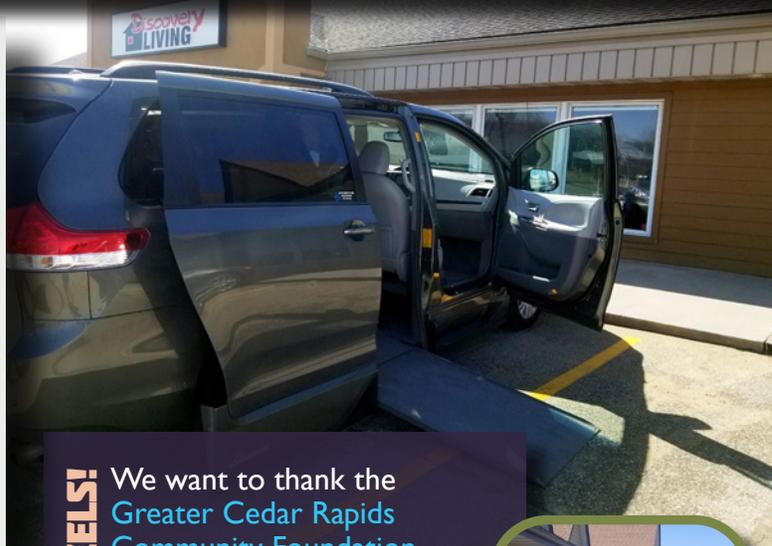


*"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." -- Rosa Parks*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**A** big Thank You to our founders and faithful friends, the Knights of Columbus, for another year of strong support. Ten local Knights of Columbus councils donated over \$47,000 to Discovery Living from their 2019 PID (Tootsie Roll) Drive. Please keep our faithful friends and their generous works in your prayers.



**CHECK OUT THE NEW WHEELS!** We want to thank the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for awarding us a \$30,000 grant. This grant assisted Discovery Living in purchasing a new, handicap-accessible van for our members at our recreation center. Our members love the new van as it allows them more opportunities for smaller group activities, allowing them to access a wider range of the community access. Thank you!





# Legislative Update

Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 legislative session was suspended in March. Plans are to reconvene once it is safe to do so. There is no question that state revenues, expenditures and the FY21 state budget will be dramatically impacted by the pandemic. Some of this impact will be mitigated by the anticipated 1.7 billion in Cares Act-related federal stimulus funding Iowa expects to receive. Look for a more detailed legislative update in our next issue.

# Guardianship

As many of you know, last session the Iowa Legislature enacted changes to laws governing guardianship and conservator processes in Iowa. This link will take you to a document that provides a thorough and updated review of guardianship and conservator-related information in Iowa. <https://iowaddcouncil.org/documents/cms/docs/Guardianship-and-Conservatorship-in-Iowa-2020.pdf>



On January 13, 2020, we lost a dear friend when Jane Ramm passed away at her Jacolyn Drive home.

## Jane Ramm

Jane loved the Iowa Hawkeyes, collecting trinkets, attention from almost anyone, and had a legendary sense of humor.

Jane was a very active community participant and enjoyed going on many trips. She had been part of the Discovery Living family since 1991, and was 60 years old when she passed. We miss her a great deal.



# We Will Always Remember...

## Tim Ellison

On March 4, 2020, Tim Ellison, age 66, passed away peacefully at his home. Tim was very dear to us. He had lived at his home with Discovery Living for 15 years. He loved his family, housemates, staff, stuffed animals (which he always named individually), horses, trains, and his "Old Friends" (his little Golden Books). He enjoyed singing songs from his childhood with his music therapist weekly. He went on a lot of trips but always loved going back to his home and "his things." Despite health challenges over the years, Tim was always a true fighter and lived his life to the fullest, touching all who met him.



"Don't aspire to make a living, aspire to make a difference." - Denzel Washington

# Welcome, Brad!



Over the years, we have been blessed with many quality employees that have chosen to make Discovery Living their vocational home. Such growth has afforded us the opportunity to advance employees who not only have the administrative skillset we are looking for, but, as an added bonus, are already familiar with the company's culture and mission. Recently, we made the strategic decision to add a new human resources (HR) generalist position to the organization to better support our valued employees and existing HR team. We had

the good fortune of finding one such employee to assume this role. Brad Jacobson, who started working for Discovery Living in 2016 as a community living assistant, and most recently as an associate coordinator for our hourly program, will be a resource for all employees. He will be involved in payroll, employee benefits, training, onboarding of new employees, and a number of other HR-related functions. Someday soon, as restrictions ease and the office opens again, we hope you stop by and say hello to Brad.

DONATE

You. That's right, YOU. As we wrap up another issue of the Dispatch, we want to take a moment and thank you, our steadfast friends and supporters, without whom there really could be no Discovery Living. Some of you are parents. Some are case managers. Some run a business that strengthens and sustains our local economy. Some of you volunteer or sit on our board. Some of you are Discovery Living employees. Almost all of you are connected to our members in some meaningful way. But there is another way you can connect with our members in a meaningful way. Did you know that while Medicaid accounts for much of Discovery Living's operational funding, we depend on regular donations to assist with the high costs of home and vehicle purchases and modifications - which add up to several hundred thousand dollars annually? Please check out the "Giving" tab at [www.discoveryliving.org](http://www.discoveryliving.org), or contact our office at (319) 378-7470 and consider some of the ways you could be a hero to one or many of the people served - and probably for a lot less than you imagine. Oh, and thank you ...for being "you."





1 0 1 5 Old Marion Road, NE  
Cedar Rapids, I o w a 52402

*Helping adults with  
intellectual disabilities  
live successful,  
satisfying lives in the  
mainstream of the  
community.*

www.discoveryliving.org  
(319) 378-7470



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For details and information on how YOUR business or organization can sponsor The Dispatch, contact [Monica Ravn](#) at (319) 378-7470 and reserve your space now.